MASON'S

MONTHLY

COIN AND STAMP

COLLECTORS'

MAGAZINE.

Vol. 5. SEPTEMBER, 1871. No. 9.

PUBLISHED AT $1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

Bavis & Pennypacker. Prs., 23 S. Tenth St.

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THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

(*Concluded.*)

The Turquoise. The name of this gem is supposed to be derived from Turkey, the country whose merchants first brought it into the Western markets. Persia seems to have been the country where it was earliest found. But it has since been discovered in Khorassan, Bucharia and the Syrian Desert. Its lustre is dull or waxy and its colors are variously sky-blue, greenish-blue, occasionally apple-green and sometimes yellowish. This, the genuine or Oriental Turquoise. It is found on small gangs of bog-ore, in silicious shiste, in boulders, etc.

There is another stone called Turquoise—generally Occidental Turquoise—which Professor Nicol treats as rather an imitation than a genuine Turquoise. It is supposed to consist of fossil antediluvian teeth, covered by hydrated copper-oxide or phosphate of iron. The principal localities of this are certain portions of Siberia and France. Its color is light blue, dark blue, or bluish green. It is easily distinguished from the Oriental species by being internally foliated and streaked—a fact indicating a bony composition— and by its not taking so high a polish. The blue specimens often turn pale or green with age, but their color may frequently be restored by scraping them and putting them in hot ashes and then subjecting them to a new polish. MM. Duhamel and Guettard proved many years ago that the bones of animals could be colored by making them eat madder.

The Oriental Turquoise takes a high polish and is so highly valued in the East, as an ornamental stone, that the Persian Shah retains the best specimens for his own use.

Both kinds are used for numerous purposes in jewelry, such as for rings, brooches, etc., as also for mounting other precious gems.

The price of the Turquoise has greatly fallen within the last ten years. The Oriental is generally four times higher than that of the Occidental, one of pea size being worth about five dollars.

AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF FRANKLIN PEALE.

Read before the American Philosophical Society by Robert Patterson.

(*Concluded.*)

I have thus far considered for the most part the outer life of Mr. Peale, by which he became known to the public at large, but I cannot conclude without some reference to his inner life as it was disclosed to his more intimate friends. These, while they admired his varied knowledge, saw upon a close inspection other traits which made still more excellent the character of the man. Of these I may mention his gentleness and loving tenderness to all, but especially to the young. With children he was a universal favorite. He never wearied in contributing to their amusement or instruction. And this was no light burden on his time, for a toy from Mr. Peale was not such as comes from the shops, but all he accomplished, from a kite to a complicated engine, was beautiful in form and finish. On occasions, and especially if a charitable object were to be promoted, he would don the costume of an Eastern juggler, and astonish the young, and even children of a larger growth, with apparently miraculous feats, for which he had constructed apparatus of his own. Even to the brute creation the same tender nature was exhibited. A scientific friend recalls even now the self restraint with which, when a youth, ardent in the search for entomological specimens, he spared a water spider, of rare species, that had shown a touching instinct in the protection of its young. He was always most ready in imparting information to inquirers whom his happy faculty and clearness in explanation gathered around him. An enthusiastic lover and explorer of nature, it was in the fields and woods that he became perhaps most interesting. He was familiar with the names and habits of plants, animals and insects, and mineralogy and geology, and from the fullness of his knowledge dispensed liberally.

A marked characteristic of Mr. Peale was his untiring energy. He was never idle, always laboring on some systematic plan. Even his recreations were methodically arranged, and a part of the means by which his body and mind were invigorated for work. And with him there were no *small* duties. Each one was sacred. No temptation or pleasure could induce him to forego a responsibility. A promise was its performance. Punctuality was a prominent virtue, any infringement on which he regarded as wasting another's time.

Finally, Mr. Peale was a reverential, humble, Christian man. A faith better than philosophy sustained him in the losing hour, and he went calmly to his rest murmuring "The Lord is my Shepherd," like unto a little child trusting to a parent's promise. His dying words, distinctly and clearly uttered, were: "If this is death, it is as I wished, perfect peace, perfect comfort, perfect joy."

The vigorous constitution of Mr. Peale carried him in robust health to a term some years beyond that allotted to man by the Psalmist. For months before his death, however, he was observed to be failing, a fact of which he was himself fully conscious, speak-

ing to his friends with perfect composure of his approaching end. He was nevertheless able, almost to the last, to attend to his accustomed duties, and his closing illness was but a brief one. He died at his residence, 1131 Girard street, on the 5th of May, 1870, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

THE TREASURE OF TARSUS.

The famous collection of jewels and gold medallions, known as the "Treasure of Tarsus," was purchased by the French Emperor (at an expense of ten thousand dollars) and presented, in his name, to the Imperial Library of Paris. Originally found by an Armenian, in the neighborhood of Tarsus, in Asia Minor, it comprises four magnificent gold medallions, some very remarkable jewels and twenty-three smaller gold pieces. Three of the gold medallions bear, in Greek, the name of Alexander the Great, and were struck in commemoration of that prince, in a town of Asia Minor, about the time of Caracalla, and probably by his orders. On one of the two representing on the reverse Alexander or Caracalla, on horseback, hunting a lion, the head is Alexander's; while on the other it is Hercules, still a youth, clothed with the lion's skin.

The certainty of Alexander's portrait may be affirmed by the quantity of bronze medals of him struck in Macedonia, from the time of Caracalla to that of Volusianus, among which a head, exactly similar, bears the name of Alexander, which head likewise corresponds to the one which Lysimachus, the general and successor of Alexander the Great, placed upon his coins.

As for the medallion showing the head of Hercules, we must remember that this demi-god was held in special veneration by the Greeks, and greatly honored by the king in question. It is in this character that we find him constantly represented during his lifetime, at which epoch kings had not yet the right to put their own likenesses on coins.

Caracella was ambitious of walking in the footsteps of that illnstrious conqueror, who was the hero of his predilection.

The third great medallion shows a portrait which, if it is not a portrait of Caracalla himself, presents, at least, the most striking resemblance to the one observed on all the medals of this emperor struck in his maturer years.

The fourth medallion is of Roman workmanship, and was struck in the year of our Lord 230, according to the inscription, "Imperator Severus Alexander Augustus, Pontifex Maximus, Tribunicia Potestate VIIII, Consul III, Pater Patriæ." The ninth tribunician power of Alexander Severus being likewise the ninth year of his reign, it was consequently A. D. 230.

The first medallion weighs 110⅓ grammes; the second weighs 100 grammes; the third weighs 94 grammes; the fourth weighs 51 1-10 grammes.

Besides their exceeding rarity, the discovery of these large medal-

lions is a subject of great interest to the learned world, and proves conclusively to our *savants* that those branches of art were, at one time, as successfully prosecuted and as well understood by the ancient Greeks as ever they were at any subsequent period by the Romans.

The "Treasure of Tarsus," then, is one of the finest numismatic discoveries that has ever been made. whether we regard beauty of design and workmanship, or its perfect state of preservation, and will long be remembered as one of the richest ornaments in the medal cabinet of the Bibliotheque Imperiale.

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Continued.)

72. C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose and bud, 7 leaves, 1 thistle, 2 shamrocks, 1 large leaf and 1 head wheat to right; 1 rose, 2 buds, 1 thistle with 2 leaves (one of which turns over the centre), 2 shamrocks, 2 heads wheat with small blades, to left; large open and slender bow and 1 ribbon to left and 1 curved ribbon to right. "* TRADE & AGRICULTURE * LOWER CANADA." Rev.—Wreath composed of 21 laurel leaves to left, and 27 long slender leaves to right, bound by a double bow to right and left, 2 short ribbons below. In centre of wreath "UN SOU." Inscription, "BANK OF MONTREAL TOKEN." Edge plain.

73. C. Obv.—Same as No. 72, but no asterisks before or after inscription. Rev.—Wreath of 20 laurel leaves, to left, and 30 leaves as in No. 72, to right, connected by a double bow. Stems of wreath touch letters "N" and "E" in Montreal. "UN SOUS," in the centre. "BANK TOKEN MONTREAL." Edge milled.

74. C. Obv.—Same as No. 73. Rev.—Similar wreath to No. 73, but having 21 leaves to left and 25 to right; double bow. Stems of wreath do not extend so far downwards and are much lighter. "BANK OF MONTREAL TOKEN."

75 C. Obv.—Bouquet. Large maple leaf, thistle, 1 bunch of 4 and 1 single blade wheat, and 1 head of wheat, bent downwards towards thistle, to right; 1 rose and bud, 4 leaves, 3 leaved sprig of shamrock, 2 blades and 1 head of wheat inclined downwards to left; large open bow and ribbon to right and left. "* AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE * BAS-CANADA." Rev.—Wreath of 5 maple leaves, 2 on right, and left turned upwards, that on top inclined downwards to left; in centre, "UN SOU." Outside of wreath, to right, a small head wearing a Swiss liberty cap; to left, a large five pointed star. "BANQUE DU PEUPLE MONTREAL." Milled edge. Scarce. This token is what is commonly known as the *Rebellion* token. It is supposed to have been issued in 1837, the Liberty cap and star having reference to the struggle then going on. Scarce in good condition.

76 C. Obv.—Bouquet. 1 rose, 4 leaves, 4 shamrocks and 1 head of wheat to right; 2 thistles, 3 shamrocks, 1 blade and 1 head

of wheat, 3 leaves as in No. 39, to left; on top, 3 blades wheat; open slender bow to left, 1 ribbon to right. Same inscription as in No. 48. Rev.—Same as No. 39. A specimen of this coin in possession of Mr. E. Groh, of New York, is struck in German silver.

77. C. Obv.—Bouquet. Rose, thistle, shamrock and head of wheat, to right and left. "* TRADE & AGRICULTURE * LOWER CANADA." Between the inscription are 2 large five-pointed stars. Rev.—Wreath composed of 11 laurel leaves and 4 sprigs, to left; and 15 long slender leaves, as in No. 72, to right. Wreath bound by 2 very large open bows, twisted like a rope to right and left, with two ends hanging downwards over front of wreath. In centre of wreath, "½ PENNY." Inscription, "BANK TOKEN MONTREAL." Edge plain. Very rare.

(To be continued.)

HOBBIES.

BY E. M., JR.

"Button! button! who's got the button?"

The games in which we were wont to indulge in childhood are vividly brought to mind at times by the most trivial occurrences. A scene which once took place, between two prominent autograph collectors, often calls up the recollection of that old, but amusing household game of "Button! button! who's got the button?"

During the civil war, and about the time of the battles in Virginia, Fairfax Court House was frequently between two fires; but more frequently under two governments. The Union troops would scarcely pitch their tents in Fairfax ere the Confederates would make a charge and oust them, and the latter, in turn, flee before the approaching Unionists, until this ancient but interesting town was reduced to a village of ruins. The court house in Fairfax had in its keeping many interesting papers connected with the Revolutionary struggle of our forefathers, and during the civil strife of the late rebellion, lovers of the curious, and mischief-seeking desperadoes, eyed the building containing the sacred treasures with longing, wistful glances in hopes that an opportunity would offer to explore its dusty rooms, and secure such prizes as rumor asserted were to be found among its musty documents In time, the court house was broken into, and many papers, letters, etc., seized and distributed. In time, also, came a regiment of Pennsylvania cavalry, one company of which was commanded by a clever Philadelphian, a whole-souled gentleman and a lover of autographs, coins, etc, whom we will call H., for the very best of reasons—that being the first letter of his surname. Captain H. posted his men near the court house, with instructions to protect the property, and was horrified at the vandalism exhibited by the attack upon the court house. He gazed upon torn scraps of valuable letters, and saw, here and there upon the ground, leaves of old and rare books converted into the most disreputable uses.

While ruminating upon these sad acts of an ungoverned and undis-

ciplined rabble, he was approached by a subordinate officer, whose love of autographs equalled his own, who asked permission to search the court house for relics, when the following conversation occurred:

Capt. H.—"Sergeant, you are too much of a gentleman, I trust, to enter that building for the purpose of purloining any article dear to the State of Virginia."

Sergt.—"Oh, for that matter, it is all honorable in war—only the *spoils*, you know."

Capt. H.—"But these '*spoils*' are '*private property.*'"

Sergt.—"Private property, indeed! Who is the owner?"

Capt. H.—"The good old State of Virginia."

Sergt.—"'Good old State;' come, Cap, that's a good 'un."

Capt. H.—(Interrupting).—"If you want to join Moseby, Sergeant, he's not far away—only over to Warrenton—I'll give you a recommendation."

Sergt.—"Come, now, Cap, don't be so personal. The State of Virginia is out of the Union—has seceded—is at war with us, and an enemy."

Capt. H.—"I know all that, and yet, while I command, that building and all it contains shall be held sacred. There are no war implements there; no enemy—nothing but a few old musty books and documents, left by a rabble of plunderers who have despoiled papers that can never be restored. If I had my will and way, I would hang every one of them, whether friend or foe."

Sergt.—"Come, Cap, don't be hard on a fellow soldier. I heard there was a 'Button' left there on the floor, and my collection would be complete if I could get that 'Button.'"

Capt. H.—Oh, if that is all you want, I can accommodate you, as I have a small collection in my trunk at the tent. What particular button do you wish?"

Sergt.—"A Georgia 'Button.'"

Capt. H.—"I have the very thing you want."

Together the two soldier friends proceed to the tent, and after a close examination the Captain produces a Georgia State brass button and politely offers it to his companion in arms.

Sergt.—Pshaw! Cap, I don't want that kind of a button, I don't collect such foolish things as buttons."

Capt. H.—(Interrupting).—"I do, I've got a North and a South Carolina, a Tennessee, an Alabama, a—"

Sergt.—"Hold on, hold on, for mercy's sake! my sister at home has a string of that nonsense, longer than any you can name in an hour, and she's only ten years of age. I want a Gwinnet."

Capt. H.—Oh! ah! I see, I see. A 'Button Gwinnet;' a *paper*, instead of a *brass* button."

It is perhaps superfluous to add that the two friends enjoyed this little affair hugely. The story spread and during the balance of the campaign the privates frequently enjoyed their little joke by crying out, "Button! button! who's got the button?"

PACIFIC RAILWAY MEDAL.

The United States Mint has issued the following circular:

"Twenty-one years ago, on the 23d of June, 1848, Ex-Gov. James Pollock, now Director of the Mint, then a member of Congress from Pennsylvania, as chairman of a special committee made a report to the House in favor of the construction of á railroad across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. The report will be found in the 3d volume of the Journal of the House of Representatives for the 1st session of the 30th Congress, No. 733. This was the *first favorable official act* on this subject on the part of the Congress of the United States.

The report discusses the question in its international and domestic aspects, its feasiblity and probable results, but only the opening sentences can be quoted here:

"The proposition at first view is a startling one. The magnitude of the work itself, and the still greater and more magnificent results promised by its accomplishments—that of revolutionizing morally and commercially, if not politically, a greater part of the habitable globe, and making the vast commerce of the world tributary to us—almost overwhelm the mind. But your committee, on examination, find it a subject as simple as it is vast and magnificent, and see no insurmountable difficulties in the way of its successful accomplishment."

A bill accompained the report, and was referred to the Committee of the Whole, but no further action was taken on it at the time, and Mr. Pollock soon after left Congress. In the fall of 1848, however, he delivered a lecture on the Pacific Railroad, by invitation, to a crowded house, at Lewisburg, Union county, Pa., closing with the following remark:

"At the risk of being considered insane, I will venture the prediction, that in less than twenty-five years from this evening, a railroad will be completed and in operation between New York and San Francisco, California; that a line of steamships will be established between San Francisco, Japan and China; and there are now in my audience ladies who will, before the expiration of the period named, drink tea brought from China and Japan, by this route, to their own doors!"

This prophetic announcement was received by the audience with a smile of good-natured incredulity; but some of those very ladies, during the present year, 1869, have been able to sip their favorite beverage in exact accordance with the terms of the speaker's prediction!

On the 10th of May, 1869, the last rail was laid, the last spike driven, and the great Pacific Railway, so long in embryo, became an accomplished fact! It had encountered numberless difficulties, the unknown condition of the country through which it must pass, and the sectional rivalries in Congress as to the proper route, being the most formidable. But attempted secession, which seemed at first destructive of every national interest, was really favorable in this regard, in permitting, for the first time, definite and adequate legislation; on the basis of which, incorporated private citizens, few in

number, but possessed of energy, sagacity and courage equal to the continental proportions of the enterprise, boldly pushed out from both oceans into the wilderness of mountain and desert; and, before the republic had yet ceased to reel under the shock of Titanic civil war, demonstrated its inevitable triumph over all opposing obstacles. And parallel with the assurance of enduring peace, under the Presidency of the great leader whose superb generalship and invincible determination had crushed rebellion and saved our nationality, the problem received its final solution in absolute success.

The idea immediately presented itself of striking a medal in commemoration of this stupendous achievement; and the Director, in consultation with William Barber, Esq., Engraver of the Mint, determined the general plan and features of the work. The result is a medal, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, giving on one side an ideal representation, in miniature, of a cross section of the continent, in the latitude of the road. A glimpse is given of both oceans, with the vast plains, lofty ranges of mountains and precipitous canons; and in the foreground, the pioneer locomotive and train of cars emerging from a mountain gorge, and heading bravely, with tireless energy, for its far off point of destination. In a scroll over this scene, on a back ground of clouds, are the words of sacred prophecy:

EVERY MOUNTAIN SHALL BE MADE LOW.

And underneath, the following inscription:

Medal Series of the U. S. Mint.
James Pollock, Director.

On the other side is an admirable profile likeness, in relief, of the President, over whose head, in a three-quarter circle, are the words,

PRESIDENCY OF U. S. GRANT.

And underneath the bust,

The Oceans United by Railway,
May 10, 1869.

A single medal was struck in gold, enclosed in a crimson velvet case, and accompanied by a letter of presentation from Director Pollock, was delivered to President Grant, at the White House, December 7, 1869, by A. Loudon Snowden, Esq., Chief Coiner of the Mint, and William Barber, Esq., designer and engraver of the medal."

Copies of the medal have been struck in silver and also in bronze, and can be had at the following rates:

Silver Medal, $5, postage paid.
Bronze Medal, $1 75, postage paid.
Mason & Co., No. 139 North Ninth Street Philadelphia.

EUROPEAN COIN AGENCY.

In consequence of an arrangement now under consideration to establish a branch of our coin business in England, Mr. Mason will delay his proposed second trip across the ocean until arrangements are perfected for opening the agency, due notice of which will be given our readers.

NEW FRENCH COINS.

Notes and Queries, of July 29, gives the following description of two coins of the French Republic of 1870, one a silver piece of five francs, the other a bronze piece of ten centimes. The five franc piece bears a bust of a female figure symbolical of the Republic, and wreath with oak, laurel flowers and wheat. The first six letters of the word "Concorde" are inscribed on a band on the forehead. This band is continued and hangs down behind the ear with a pearl necklace round the neck. Above the bust is a large five-pointed star, and below is the artist's name. The legend is "Republique Francaise." The reverse contains the legend "5 Francs, 1870," in three lines within a large wreath of branches of oak and laurel twined together. The circumscription is "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite," with a point or stop after each word. Before the word "Liberte" is a small sprig of laurel. At the bottom is a small letter "A" between a bee and an anchor signifying the Paris mint. The edge of the coin is inscribed, "Dieu protege la France," or, "God protect France." The weight of the coin is 24 grammes or 370 grains. The bronze piece of 10 centimes has nearly the same design on the obverse as the five franc piece. The reverse contains the legend "10 centimes," surrounded by a wreath composed of one branch of laurel and one of oak, tied together with the same circumspection as on the silver piece. The edge is plain, and the weight is 146 grains, being the same as the English bronze penny It is to be remarked that the "E" on the ten centime piece is marked with the accent.

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS.

The historical importance and value of old letters can hardly be overestimated, and yet many of these precious documents, connected with the early history of our country, are often, too often thrown into the waste paper receptacle to go into pulp at the paper mill. The *Philadelphia Ledger*, of August 25, in alluding to letters and manuscripts, opportunely and ably remarks:

> How much would have been irrecoverably lost if the letters of Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Hamilton and their compeers had not been preserved and published? It is these which give us the best insight into the events of their day, and the real characters of the great actors in them. The public records and the histories founded upon those records would be barren and delusive but for the aids furnished by letters and diaries. And even as to character what a priceless treasure is the collection of Jefferson's letters to his daughters and sisters, just published in Mrs. Randolph's "Domestic Life of Thomas Jefferson." We cannot call to mind anything more charmingly instructive and salutary than the written communicatious of that grand old statesman to his children, as published in that book.

CORRECTION.

The cabinet of coins of W. P. Coolbaugh, alluded to in our last issue, should be credited to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and not Grand Rapids, Michigan.

READING CIRCLE.

Louis May, Hamburg, Germany, one of our subscribers, has established a Reading Circle, in Hamburg, where subscribers can call and read all the philatelic and numismatic publications of the world, or, for a trifle, take the periodicals home, returning them in proper time for other members to make use of. We heartily approve of these social gatherings, and trust that Louis *may* have his example copied in this country. We notice by circular that our journal is credited to London Please correct this, brother May, in your next circular. The Reading Circle have the following journals on their table, at 48 Koppell, Hamburg: *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Philadelphia; *Le Timbre Poste*, Brussels; *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, Dresden; *The Philatelist*, London; *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, Bath; *The American Stamp Mercury*, Boston; *Der Briefmarken-Sammler*, Leipzig; *The American Journal of Philately*, New York; *Le Timbrophile*, Paris; *The Philadelphia Monthly*, Philadelphia.

THE ELLIOT COIN SALE.

A cabinet of coins, comprising 881 lots of American and Foreign silver and copper coins, will be offered at public auction, by George A. Leavitt & Co., New York, on the 5th and 6th of this month, commencing each day at 5 P. M. Included in this cabinet are some very rare and fine American pieces; also some choice medals and foeign coins. Catalogues have been forwarded to our patrons. On page 26 of the catalogue, the fine collection of Greek coins has been, by some accident, deprived of its heading. These rare and beautiful pieces commence at lot 615 and continue to lot 663, making 48 lots of very desirable ancient coins. All coins in this sale are guaranteed genuine unless otherwise described.

NEW FRENCH COINS.

In addition to the five and two franc piece of 1870 and 1871, alluded to in our July number, we have examined the bronze five and ten centimes of 1871. These new bronze coins of France have the same design on obverse as the five franc piece, with legend, "LIBERTE EGALITE FRATERNITE;" reverse, "ten centimes and five centimes," each surrounded by a wreath of oak and laurel tied together, plain edges, weight respectively 146 and 73 grains.

REVIEW.

American Coin and Stamp Review for August is received. This journal improves as it gains age, and gains in size as it grows older. There is ample room for our little neighbor from Allentown, Pa., and we hope it will be supported according to its merits. The Keystone Association publish the *Review* at 25 cents per annum. We should think the contents of this little four paged journal could be managed without the aid of an association.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. J., MILWAUKIE.—Queen Anne farthings are not rare. There are six varieties. The idea that only six were coined is a popular error. James II coined a five pound gold piece, now very rare.

R. A. P., CANTON.—Sale in Germany, Sept. 5. Sale in London in October. We shall make an earnest effort hereafter to supply our patrons with European catalogues of coin sales, but must charge the price for same usually paid in Europe.

H. S. S., FOREST CITY.—We have plenty of the numbers you name, excepting No. 1, for which we allow 25 cents. The colonial and continental paper money is original. 10 per cent. discount if you purchase by the set. No. 2 of the Coin Collectors' Photographs will not appear this year. Used your photographs, cannot now return the one you wish to obtain. None of the large plates on hand.

T. W. T., VINEYARD HAVEN.—Faustina, Sr. and Jr., Roman and imperial first, second and third brass refer to size, first brass being the largest coin. Account square. Too busy to answer by mail when your favor was received.

W. P. C., OSHKOSH.—There has not been printed a price list of the Packer sale. Our priced catalogue are $2 each.

C. P. N., SPRINGFIELD.—Will meet you at the sale, Sept. 5.

H. P. A., BURLINGTON, VT.—Could not make out the rubbing of the Roman coin.

H. F. A., PORTSMOUTH, N. H.—Have not the catalogue with plates or would send it on.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HAMBURG, GERMANY, August 17, 1871.

DEAR SIR: After a long search, I was happy to receive name and address of your journal, which I was long endeavoring to find. As you see, from the circular enclosed, I have established a circle of reading journals of philately, and hope that your journal by this means may become known and procure you many subscribers. You would also greatly oblige me by recommending my enterprise in your fine journal and sending the copies for one year very promptly, as twenty subscribers I gained already in these few days are waiting for them with impatience. Yours, truly, LOUIS MAY.

MINT DROPS.

A BOSTON paper says: "There should be a copper company at work on Half-way Rock, between Boston and Gloucester, where generations of fishermen have thrown lucky pennies on their outward voyages, to insure a full fare and safe trip. Its veins are full of copper and nickel cents, from the earliest issues down to the coinage of to-day. This operation is on as solid a basis as any in Wall street."

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has adopted a new system of gold and silver coinage, to correspond with the American. The unit will be the "yeu," or dollar.

A CURIOSITY

R. D. Munson is a persistent Yankee, a native of Williston, Vermont, who has devoted ten years to the achievement of making a clock that is more complicatedly ingenious than the Strasbourg timepiece, and vastly more serviceable. It runs eight days, and the dial marks the second, minute, hour, and day of the week, month and year; a thermometer rests against the pendulum, giving the state of temperature; the ball of the pendulum contains a miniature timepiece, which derives its motive power solely from its vibrating position, and keeps accurate time; with this there is a delightful musical apparatus, which plays an air at the end of each hour, and it is piously precontrived so as to play only sacred tunes on Sunday, beginning and ending with the "Doxology." On national holidays, the airs are diversified patriotically with "Yankee Doodle," etc. This wonderful timepiece presents a black walnut front ten feet high, twenty inches wide, ten inches deep, and is embellished with profuse scroll work and national designs.

SALE OF THE ELLIOT NUMISMATIC COLLECTION.

The Elliot Numismatic Collection and other Private Cabinets of American and Foreign Silver and Copper Coins, Medals, &c., will be sold without reserve, on Tuesday and Wednesday Evenings, September 5 and 6, 1871, at five o'clock, at the Book Trade Sales Rooms of Geo. A. Leavit & Co., Astor Place, New York. The coins will be exhibition at ten o'clock on each day of sale. Bids will be received by the Auctioneers; also by Edward Cogan, No. 95 William Street, New York; L. Boyson & Bro., Buffalo; Henry Ahlhorn, Old Cambridge Toll House, Boston; John W. Kline, No. 212 South Eighth Street, and Mason & Co., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

NEW ISSUES.

JAPAN.—We introduce a trio of interesting novelties in the shape of postage stamps for the Empire of Japan. The stamps are printed on thin soft Japanese paper, upon which the impression shows beautifully clear. The inscriptions and values are in black, and the remainder of the labels in the following colors:

1, indigo blue, 2, pale yellow-green 3, dull red.

They are all imperforate and ungummed. We have only seen one each of these stamps; and as they arrived almost at the end of the month, we were obliged to send them to our engraver without a day's delay, so have been unable to study inscriptions as we would wish. We are ignorant as to the coin in which their value is computed; but, from our slight knowledge of Chinese, we think we can detect upon them the character for one, two and three respectively.

Our correspondent (who is not a collector) stated that, as a new coinage was shortly to be introduced in Japan, these labels can only hope to have a very short currency. The chief coin at present in use in that empire is the *ichibu*, which is equal to about one shilling four and a half pence. As we do not think either candareens or cents are mentioned upon the stamps, we may venture to surmise that the value is in fractional parts of the *ichibu*. We, however, hope to give fuller details at an early date.

VICTORIA.—This colony is first in the field to adopt the half penny newspaper stamp of the mother country and second in regard to the post card boon. This appears from the following extract from the letter of a Geelong correspondent: "The Victorian government intend shortly to issue a half penny stamp for newspapers, and also post cards at a penny. The system of post cards has already been introduced into some of the goverment departments (being franked with the particular stamp of that department from which they are sent) the same as letters."

NEW SOUTH WALES.—This colony has seconded its neighbor Victoria in issuing envelopes. We presume the sole value yet out is the same as described in our April number—from an essay exhibited at the Philatelist Society's meeting by the President—the one penny, pale red. The other values will probably follow.

ANGOLA.—M. Moens states that the 25 reis of this Portuguese dependency is changed from flesh to bright vermillion.—*Philatelist.*

HUNGARY.—We have a new Hungarian journal stamp. It is of the value of one kreuzer, and is printed on thick unwatermarked wove paper.

TURKEY.—The 10 paras adhesive is now issued in pale brown, surcharged with black inscription, and with *pricked* perforations, and the Belgian journal notices a 2 piastre vermillion similarly perforated.

GREAT BRITAIN.—A proposal was made in the House of Commons, last month, that its postmaster should be empowered to use a handstamp to mark prepayment of the members' letters, that the members may be saved the trouble of sticking adhesive stamps on them.

CEYLON.—One of our correspondents has sent us a used half penny stamp of pink color. It is of an ordinary type, is perforated, and shows no signs of having been chemicically changed; we, therefore, presume that a new emission has taken place.

BARBADOS.—We have received from our old correspondent, Mr. Daniels, a specimen of the current blue stamp, star watermarked; and he informs us that the whole series with this watermark was issued several months since. The blue is of a peculiar dull slate tint, and probably the other values will be found to vary in color from their predecessors.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—We have been favored by one of our subscribers with a view of a handstamped envelope from these distant islands. It cousists of the words FALKLAND PAID ISLANDS, in three

lines, enclosed in a single line oblong frame. This very simple design is handstamped on the right hand corner of the envelope. The source from which we received notice of this novelty permits of our guaranteeing its authenticity.

FINLAND.—New envelopes have at length appeared for this province. The design is that of the existing adhesive series, and the value is expressed in pennia.

20 pennia, blue. 40 pennia, rose.

SPAIN.—The intelligence which arrives respecting the new stamps is very conflicting. The latest reaches us from a Madrid correspondent, and is to the effect that they are far from being on the point of emission, Several drawings have been printed, but the type has not been designated as yet.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—We have seen a specimen of the round local post hand impressed journal stamps, on colored paper, on which the letters P. L. are in Roman instead of block letters.

JAPAN.—According to the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, a paper published at Leipsic, there is actually a probability of stamps being issued for the Japanese empire. It states that Messrs. H. Engel & Son have obtained the contract, and are engaged in preparing a supply. We give this intelligence *sous toutes reserves*.

ANGOLA.—Our Belgian contemporary announces that the 25 reis is no longer flesh colored, but bright vermillion. The same authority furnishes us with the two following items, which we translate textually:

BAVARIA.—We have just received the 6 and 12 kr., perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, and an unpaid letter stamp of usual type, with the same perforation, value 1 kr., and printed in black on white. They have all the watermark reproduced in in our hundredth number.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—We have received a penny envelope on white laid paper, bearing a stamp identical in type with the adhesive of same value. The stamp is struck on right upper corner, and the envelope is of the ordinary shape. The flap bears the design,

One penny, flesh.

AUSTRIA.—*Danubian Steam Navigation Company.*—The color of the 10 soldi has been altered from lilac to orange-red.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

TOBACCO STAMPS.

In reply to a letter from Supervisor Corwin, of Ohio, in relation to the matter of proper cancellation of tobacco and cigar stamps, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue says that the law prescribes definitely the mode by which the different kinds of tobacco and cigar stamps shall be cancelled. No stamp on a wooden package of tobacco is properly cancelled unless a portion of the stamp is sunk into the wood of the box by a steel die. It should enter the wood so as to leave an indention in the wood; if not, a portion of the stamp that may be plainly visible when the stamp is removed.

The mere cutting of the stamp with a sharp instrument, or a slight indentation of the stamp without breaking the paper, or puncturing the wood of the box, does not answer the requirements of the law. Again, no cancellation is properly done which omits the date of cancellation, or which omits the name of the manufacturer or proprietor, as the case may be, plainly and legibly written or imprinted upon the stamp.

The Commissioner says he does not consider every case of imperfect cancellation a proper cause for the seizure of the goods in the hands of the purchasers, but should consider it cause for proceeding against any manufacturer of tobacco or cigars who should knowingly and persistently continue to place his goods on the market not properly cancelled as the law and regulations require, or so imperfectly cancelled by such omissions as above indicated as to render perfectly easy the removal of these stamps and a second use of them on other packages. Cut packages of tobacco where all the marks and brands are gone, which are requisite for identification, may properly be seized, and the owner or possessor required to furnish evidence that the tax has been paid, or failing, to submit to a forfeiture of such tobacco.

NEW UNITED STATES REVENUE STAMP.

Joseph R. Carpenter, of this city, contractor for printing adhesive stamps, has just submitted to the Internal Revenue office a model of the new five thousand dollar registered stamp, for use on deeds and other instruments requiring a stamp of that denomination. A specimen is being examined for approval, and is two by four inches, and the engraving is elaborate, and all the lathe work, except the lettering and figure work design, is entirely new, and is printed in four colors, in standard and soluble inks. The model will be adopted with slight modifications.

THE SEVEN CENT STAMP.

In a previous number, we stated that the new United States seven cent postage stamp was obsolete on account of the reduction of postage to Germany to five cents. By the following official statement it will be seen we were in error:

POSTAGE WITH GERMANY.

An arrangement has just been concluded between the United States and Germany, to take effect on the 1st of October next, which reduces the rate of international postage for prepaid letters, if carried between the two countries by the closed mail via England, from ten to seven cents for each rate of half ounce or under. Unpaid letters so exchanged are to be charged with double the prepaid rates, and the insufficiently paid letters with the postage of unpaid letters, after deduction of the amount prepaid. This arrangement thus establishes a uniform postage of seven cents, or silver groschen, per rate on prepaid letters exchanged between the United States and Germany, on and after the first of October proximo, whether transmitted via England or by the direct lines via Hamburg or Bremen.

It is particularly to be observed that this reduction applies to letters only,

so that all correspondence other than letters posted in the United States for Germany will continue subject to the same rates of postage and to the same conditions of compulsory prepayment as are now applicable thereto. Postmasters will levy and collect postage on and after the first of October next.

By order of the Postmaster General.

(Signed) JOSEPH H. BLACKFORD, Superintendent.

The German Postal Department have notified our Post Office authorities that the following places in Alsace and Loraine embraced in a former list of German towns by the definite treaty of peace with France, remain in the possession of France. Letters to these places will, therefore, be treated as French letters, and do not come under the provisions of the Postal Department of Germany: 1. Belfort, Alsace; 2. Beaucort, Alsace; 3. Bole Bouroque, Alsace; 4. Brunn Fontaine, Alsace; 1. Cirey au der Vezouze, Loraine; 5. Oattenreid Velle, Alsace; 6. Geromangy, Alsace; 2. Mars la Tour, Loraine; 3. Moncel au der Seille, Loraine; 7. Welchen Kappelen, La Chapelle, sous Rougemont, Alsace.

UNITED STATES CIGAR STAMPS.

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THIS MAGAZINE BY J. P. ANSHUTZ.

(*Concluded.*)

USED IN 1869 AND 1870.

Fine lathe work and engraving, with blank space for manufacturer's name.

Twenty-five cigars. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Vermillion. 9 inches by 1 inch.

Fifty cigars. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Green. 12 inches by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

One hundred cigars. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Black. 15 inches by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Two hundred and fifty. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Blue. 16 inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Five hundred. Tax Paid. United States Internal Revenue. Yellow. 15 inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

IMPORTED CIGAR STAMPS.

USED IN 1866.

Fine lathe work, view of Treasury in oval in centre. Blank space for weight, date, district and state and inspector's name. Inscribed United States Internal Revenue. Imported cigars. $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. Brown and green.

USED SINCE 1867.

Fine lathe work, two portraits of Washington. Blank space for inspector's and steamer's names, date and port of entry. 15 inches long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. Red.

Fine engraving and lathe work, bust of female in centre. Inscribed "Internal Revenue U. S. Cigarettes. Weight not exceeding 3 lbs. per thousand. Tax Paid, seventy-five cents." 13 inches long by $\frac{7}{8}$ inches wide. Black.

COINS FOR SALE.

English Silver Crowns, prior to 1700; good condition,	$1 50
English Half Crowns; old dates,	75
French Medals; bronze; proof,	75
Greek Silver Coins,	75
" Brass "	50
Roman Silver Coins,	50
" Brass "	15
California Gold Dollar, octagon or round,	1 75
" Half Dollar, "	75
" Quarter Dollar, octagon or round,	50
United States Mint Sets—Five, Three, Two and One Cent Pieces; 1871; proofs,	25
United States Mint Sets—One Dollar to One Cent, inclusive; 1871; proofs,	4 50
100 Store Cards, all different, fine,	3 00
100 Rebellion Tokens, all different, fine,	3 00
Silver Proof Sets, 1859 to 1870, each,	5 50

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CURIOSITIES.

The London Times in miniature—a photographic copy of the great newspaper—every word and letter distinct and in exact form and appearance of the original—4 inches by 3 inches. Every lover of the curious should have a copy. Price, 25 cents. Also, Harper's Weekly—photographic copy, in perfect miniature (size of a visiting card) and folded in exact appearance of the original—illustrations remarkably perfect. Price, 25 cents.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

1793 CENTS.

We have received a small lot of poor 1793 cents, dates not visible, which we will sell from 25 cents to 50 cents, each, according to condition; also, a few extra chain or link '93's, at $10, each; extra wreath '93's, $5, each; good wreath '93's, $2 50, $3 and $3 50, each.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

KENTUCKY CENTS.

Kentucky Cent; very fine,	$3 00
do fine,	2 00
do good,	1 50
do fair,	1 00

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

CHROMOS.

We have a large stock of chromos on hand—portraits of beautiful ladies—which we will send by mail at the following prices:

Full Length Figure,	$ 25
Half Length Figure,	20
Heads and Busts, enameled,	20
Largest Size, very fine,	40
A full set, one of each, all different and different sizes,	90

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.